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(54) Range shift control

(57) A control for enhanced range shifting in a computer (48) -assisted vehicular compound transmission having a main section (16A) shifted by a manually operated shift lever (31) and a range section (16B) shifted in response to operation of a range shift selector, such as sensing shift lever (31) passing through a predetermined actuation point (AR) in the shift pattern. During a

compound shift, if the main section is engaged prior to completion of the range shift, the engine is fueled to a synchronous speed for engaging the target ratio ($ES = OS \cdot GR_T$) and the range section shift is completed without undue wear or damage to the range section synchronized clutch (130).

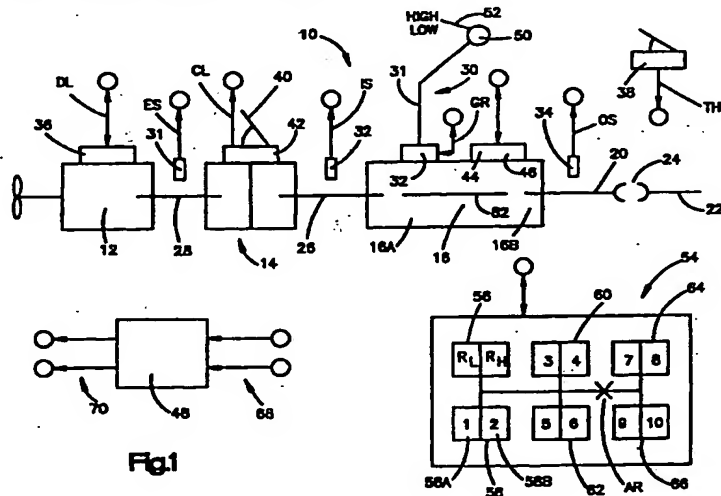
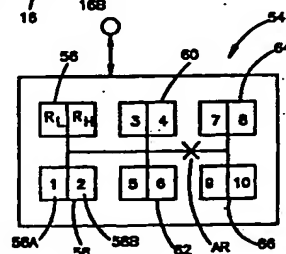


Fig.1



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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is related to the following co-pending applications, all assigned to EATON CORPORATION, the assignee of this application:

Serial No. 08/_____ [97-TRN-561] mailed 04/01/98 and titled ADAPTIVE UPSHIFT JAW CLUTCH ENGAGEMENT CONTROL

Serial No. 08/_____ [97-TRN-566] mailed 04/01/98 and titled ENGINE FUEL CONTROL FOR COMPLETING SHIFTS IN CONTROLLER-ASSISTED, MANUALLY SHIFTED TRANSMISSIONS

Serial No. 08/_____ [97-TRN-567] mailed 04/01/98 and titled DYNAMIC RANGE SHIFT ACTUATION

Serial No. 08/_____ [97-TRN-568] mailed 04/01/98 and titled START-FROM-STOP ENGINE TORQUE LIMITING

Serial No. 08/_____ [98-TRN-067] mailed 04/01/98 and titled JAW CLUTCH ENGAGEMENT CONTROL FOR ASSISTED, MANUALLY SHIFTED, SPLITTER-TYPE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

Serial No. 08/_____ [98-TRN-092] mailed 04/01/98 and titled ADAPTIVE NEUTRAL SENSING

Serial No. 08/_____ [98-TRN-101] mailed 04/01/98 and titled ADAPTIVE SPLITTER ACTUATOR ENGAGEMENT FORCE CONTROL

Serial No. 08/902,603 filed 08/07/97 and titled PARTIALLY AUTOMATED, LEVER-SHIFTED MECHANICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

Serial No. 08/_____ [97-TRN-495] mailed 12/11/97 and titled ASSISTED LEVER-SHIFTED TRANSMISSION.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a control system/method for controlling range shifting in a compound transmission having a lever-shifted main section and a range section shifted by a range section actuator selectively positioning a synchronized double-acting positive clutch. In particular, the present invention relates to controlling range shifting in a lever-shifted, partially automated vehicular transmission system having a microprocessor-based controller for controlling the operation of a range shift actuator and/or an engine fuel control.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

[0003] Compound manually shifted mechanical transmissions of the range, splitter and/or combined range/splitter type are in wide use in heavy-duty vehicles and are well known in the prior art, as may be seen by reference to U.S. Pats. No. 4,754,665; 5,272,929; 5,370,013 and 5,390,561, 5,546,823; 5,609,062; 5,642,643 and 5,676,017, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. Typically, such transmissions include a main section shifted directly or remotely by a manual shift lever and one or more auxiliary sections connected in series therewith. The auxiliary sections most often were shifted by a slave actuator, usually pneumatically, hydraulically, mechanically and/or electrically operated, in response to manual operation of one or more master switches. Shift controls for such systems may be seen by reference to U.S. Pats. No. 4,455,883; 4,550,627; 4,899,607; 4,920,815; 4,974,468; 5,000,060; 5,272,931; 5,281,902; 5,222,404 and 5,350,561, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0004] Fully or partially automated transmission systems wherein a microprocessor-based electronic control unit (ECU) receives input signals indicative of various system operating conditions and processes same according to logic rules to issue command output signals to one or more system actuators are known in the prior art, as may be seen by reference to U.S. Pats. No. 4,361,060; 4,593,580; 4,595,986; 4,850,236; 5,435,212; 5,582,069; 5,582,558; 5,620,392; 5,651,292 and 5,679,096; 5,682,790; the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0005] In range sections utilizing synchronized double-acting clutches, improper range shifting will result in undue wear and/or damage to the synchronizers. If the range section is shifted from range-high to range-low at greater than a reference vehicle speed, or if the main section is engaged prior to the range section in a compound shift, undue wear and/or damage to the synchronizer friction surfaces is likely. These problems, and prior art proposed solutions thereto, may be appreciated by reference to U.S. Pats. No. 5,222,404; 5,263,379; 5,199,312 and 5,193,410, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0006] While the prior art systems did protect the range synchronizer by limiting the force at which the range clutch was engaged under certain circumstances, the possible result was unacceptably slow and/or not completed range shifts.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] A preferred embodiment of the present invention involves a computer-assisted mechanical compound transmission system wherein the main section is shifted by a manually controlled shift lever and the engine is fueled and/or the auxiliary sections are shifted

by actuators at least partially controlled by an ECU to enhance shifting. The ECU uses sensed and/or calculated inputs indicative of system operating parameters, such as operation of a splitter switch and/or a range switch, position and/or rate of change of position of the shift lever, engaged gear ratio, engine speed, output shaft speed, clutch condition and/or throttle pedal position, to assist shifting by controlling engine fueling and/or operation of the range and/or splitter shift actuators.

[0008] In accordance with the present invention, the drawbacks of the prior art are minimized or overcome by the provision of a range shift control for computer-assisted mechanical transmission system which will sense vehicle operating conditions and will prevent unacceptable range downshifts and/or control engine fueling to prevent and/or minimize undue wear and/or damage to the range synchronizer during a range shift if the main section engages prior to the range section, while allowing the desired range shift to be completed in an efficient manner. This is accomplished by taking control of engine fueling (preferably over a data link, such as an SAE J-1922 or J-1939 data link) if main section engagement is prior to range section engagement and causing the engine to assume a synchronous speed while allowing the range shift to proceed at full force.

[0009] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide ECU assistance for enhanced shifting of a mechanical compound transmission having a main section shifted by a manually operated shift lever.

[0010] A further objection of the present invention is to provide improved range shifting control in a transmission system of the type described.

[0011] These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description of the preferred embodiment taken in connection with the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012]

Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of an ECU-assisted compound mechanical transmission system advantageously utilizing the range shifting control of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a chart illustrating the shift pattern and representative numerical ratios for the transmission of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration of the structure of the compound mechanical transmission of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a schematic illustration of a three-position splitter actuator for use with the transmission system of Fig. 1.

Figs. 5A and 5B are schematic illustrations of a shift shaft position sensor mechanism for use in the system of Fig. 1.

Figs. 6A and 6B are schematic illustrations, in flow

chart format, of the range shift control of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0013] A computer-assisted (i.e., microprocessor-based, controller-assisted) vehicular compound mechanical transmission system 10, particularly well suited to utilize the range shift control of the present invention, may be seen by reference to Figs. 1-5B.

[0014] System 10 is of the type commonly utilized in heavy-duty vehicles, such as the conventional tractors of tractor/semi-trailer vehicles, and includes an engine, typically a diesel engine 12, a master friction clutch 14 contained within a clutch housing, a multiple-speed compound transmission 16, and a drive axle assembly (not shown). The transmission 16 includes an output shaft 20 drivingly coupled to a vehicle drive shaft 22 by a universal joint 24 for driving the drive axle assembly. The transmission 16 is housed within a transmission housing to which is directly mounted the shift tower of the shift lever assembly 30. The present system is equally applicable to remotely mounted shift levers, as are used in cab-over-engine types of vehicles.

[0015] Fig. 2 illustrates a shift pattern for assisted manual shifting of a combined range-and-splitter-type compound transmission shifted by a manually operated shift lever. Briefly, the shift lever 31 is movable in the side-to-side or X[]X direction to select a particular ratio or ratios to be engaged and is movable in the fore and aft or Y[]Y direction to selectively engage and disengage the various ratios. The shift pattern may include an automatic range shifting feature and automatically selected and/or implemented splitter shifting, as is known in the prior art. Manual transmissions utilizing shift mechanisms and shift patterns of this type are well known in the prior art and may be appreciated in greater detail by reference to aforementioned U.S. Pats. No. 5,000,060 and 5,390,561.

[0016] Typically, the shift lever assembly 30 will include a shift finger or the like (not shown) extending downwardly into a shifting mechanism 32, such as a multiple-rail shift bar housing assembly or a single shift shaft assembly, as is well known in the prior art and as is illustrated in aforementioned U.S. Pats. No. 4,455,883; 4,550,627; 4,920,815 and 5,272,931.

[0017] In the automatic range shifting feature, as the shift lever moves in the transition area between the middle leg (3/4-5/6) and the righthand leg (7/8-9/10) of the shift pattern, it will cross a point, AR, which will actuate a mechanical or electrical range switch, or will be sensed by a position sensor, to cause automatic implementation of a range shift.

[0018] The present invention also is applicable to transmission systems of the type utilizing range shift selector switches which are manually operated independent of shift lever position, as illustrated in aforementioned U.S. Pat. No. 5,222,404.

[0019] Shifting of transmission 16, comprising main section 16A coupled in series to auxiliary section 16B, is semi-automatically implemented/assisted by the vehicular transmission system 10, illustrated in Figs. 1-5B. Main section 16A includes an input shaft 26, which is operatively coupled to the drive or crank shaft 28 of the vehicle engine 12 by master clutch 14, and output shaft 20 of auxiliary section 16B is operatively coupled, commonly by means of a drive shaft 24, to the drive wheels of the vehicle. The auxiliary section 16B is a splitter type, preferably a combined range-and-splitter type, as illustrated in U.S. Pats. No. 4,754,665 and 5,390,561.

[0020] The change-gear ratios available from main transmission section 16 are manually selectable by manually positioning the shift lever 31 according to the shift pattern prescribed to engage the particular desired change gear ratio of main section 16A.

[0021] The system may include sensors 30 (for sensing engine rotational speed (ES)), 32 (for sensing input shaft rotational speed (IS)), and 34 (for sensing output shaft rotational speed (OS)), and providing signals indicative thereof. As is known, with the clutch 14 (i.e., no slip) engaged and the transmission engaged in a known gear ratio, $ES = IS = OS \cdot GR$ (see U.S. Pat. No. 4,361,060). Accordingly, if clutch 14 is engaged, engine speed and input shaft speed may be considered as equal. Input shaft speed sensor 32 may be eliminated and engine speed (ES), as sensed by a sensor or over a data link (DL), substituted therefor.

[0022] Engine 12 is electronically controlled, including an electronic controller 36 communicating over an electronic data link (DL) operating under an industry standard protocol such as SAE J-1922, SAE J-1939, ISO 11898 or the like. Throttle position (operator demand) is a desirable parameter for selecting shifting points and in other control logic. A separate throttle position sensor 38 may be provided or throttle position (THL) may be sensed from the data link. Gross engine torque (T_{EQ}) and base engine friction torque (T_{BEF}) also are available on the data link.

[0023] A manual clutch pedal 40 controls the master clutch 14, and a sensor 42 provides a signal (CL) indicative of clutch-engaged or -disengaged condition. The condition of the clutch also may be determined by comparing engine speed to input shaft speed if both signals are available. An auxiliary section actuator 44 including a range shift actuator and a splitter actuator 46 is provided for operating the range clutch and the splitter section clutch in accordance with command output signals from ECU 48. The shift lever 31 has a knob 50 which contains splitter selector switch 52 by which a driver's intent to initiate a splitter shift may be sensed.

[0024] System 10 may include a driver's display unit 54 including a graphic representation of the six-position shift pattern with individually lightable display elements 56, 58, 60, 62, 64 and 66, representing each of the selectable engagement positions. Preferably, each half of the shift pattern display elements (i.e., 58A and 58B)

will be individually lightable, allowing the display to inform the driver of the lever and splitter position for the engaged ratio.

[0025] The system includes a control unit or ECU 48, preferably a microprocessor-based control unit of the type illustrated in U.S. Pats. No. 4,595,986; 4,361,065 and 5,335,566, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference, for receiving input signals 68 and processing same according to predetermined logic rules to issue command output signals 70 to system actuators, such as the splitter section actuator 46, the engine controller 36, the range shift actuator and/or the display unit 54. A separate system controller may be utilized, or the engine controller ECU 36 communicating over an electronic data link may be utilized.

[0026] As shown in U.S. Pat. No. 5,651,292 (the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference) and co-pending patent application U.S. Serial No. 08/597,304 (assigned to the assignee of this application), the splitter actuator 46 is, preferably, a three-position device, allowing a selectable and maintainable splitter section neutral. Alternatively, a [pseudo] splitter-neutral may be provided by deenergizing the splitter actuator when the splitter clutch is in an intermediate, non-engaged position.

[0027] The structure of the 10-forward-speed combined range-and-splitter-type transmission 16 is schematically illustrated in Fig. 3. Transmissions of this general type are disclosed in aforementioned U.S. Pats. No. 5,000,060; 5,370,013 and 5,390,561.

[0028] Transmission 16 includes a main section 16A and an auxiliary section 16B, both contained within a housing including a forward end wall 16C, which may be defined by the clutch housing, and a rearward end wall 16D, but (in this particular embodiment) not an intermediate wall.

[0029] Input shaft 26 carries input gear 76 fixed for rotation therewith and defines a rearwardly opening pocket wherein a reduced diameter extension of output shaft 20 is piloted. A non-friction bushing or the like may be provided in the pocket or blind bore. The rearward end of input shaft 26 is supported by bearing 78 in front end wall 16C, while the rearward end of output shaft 20 is supported by bearing assembly 80 in rear end wall 16D.

[0030] The mainshaft 82, which carries mainshaft clutches 84 and 86, and the mainshaft splitter clutch 88 is in the form of a generally tubular body having an externally splined outer surface and an axially extending through bore for passage of output shaft 20. Shift forks 90 and 92 are provided for shifting clutches 84 and 86, respectively (see Fig. 5A). Mainshaft 82 is independently rotatable relative to input shaft 26 and output shaft 20 and preferably is free for limited radial movement relative thereto.

[0031] The main section 16A includes two substantially identical main section countershaft assemblies 94, each comprising a main section countershaft 96 carry-

ing countershaft gears 98, 100, 102, 104 and 106 fixed thereto. Gear pairs 98, 100, 102, 104 and 106 are constantly meshed with input gear 76, mainshaft gears 108 and 110 and an idler gear (not shown), which is meshed with reverse mainshaft gear 112, respectively.

[0032] Main section countershaft 96 extends rearwardly into the auxiliary section, where its rearward end is supported directly or indirectly in rear housing end wall 16D.

[0033] The auxiliary section 16B of transmission 16 includes two substantially identical auxiliary countershaft assemblies 114, each including an auxiliary countershaft 116 carrying auxiliary countershaft gears 118, 120 and 122 for rotation therewith. Auxiliary countershaft gear pairs 118, 120 and 122 are constantly meshed with splitter gear 124, splitter/range gear 126 and range gear 128, respectively. Splitter clutch 88 is fixed to mainshaft 82 for selectively clutching either gear 124 or 126 thereto, while synchronized range clutch 130 is fixed to output shaft 20 for selectively clutching either gear 126 or gear 128 thereto.

[0034] Auxiliary countershafts 116 are generally tubular in shape, defining a through bore for receipt of the rearward extensions of the main section countershafts 96. Bearings or bushings are provided to rotatably support auxiliary countershaft 116 on main section countershaft 96.

[0035] The splitter jaw clutch 88 is a double-sided, non-synchronized clutch assembly which may be selectively positioned in the rightwardmost or leftwardmost positions for engaging either gear 126 or gear 124, respectively, to the mainshaft 82 or to an intermediate position wherein neither gear 124 or 126 is clutched to the main shaft. Splitter jaw clutch 88 is axially positioned by means of a shift fork 98 controlled by a three-position actuator, such as a piston actuator, which is responsive to a driver selection switch such as a button or the like on the shift knob, as is known in the prior art and to control signals from ECU 48 (see U.S. Pat. No. 5,661,998). Two-position synchronized range clutch assembly 130 is a two-position clutch which may be selectively positioned in either the rightwardmost or leftwardmost positions thereof for selectively clutching either gear 128 or 126, respectively, to output shaft 20. Clutch assembly 130 is positioned by means of a shift fork (not shown) operated by means of a two-position piston device. Either piston actuator may be replaced by a functionally equivalent actuator, such as a ball screw mechanism, ball ramp mechanism or the like.

[0036] By selectively axially positioning both the splitter clutch 88 and the range clutch 130 in the forward and rearward axial positions thereof, four distinct ratios of mainshaft rotation to output shaft rotation may be provided. Accordingly, auxiliary transmission section 16B is a three-layer auxiliary section of the combined range and splitter type providing four selectable speeds or drive ratios between the input (mainshaft 82) and output (output shaft 20) thereof. The main section 16A pro-

vides a reverse and three potentially selectable forward speeds. However, one of the selectable main section forward gear ratios, the low-speed gear ratios associated with mainshaft gear 110, is not utilized in the high range. Thus, transmission 16 is properly designated as a "(2 + 1) x (2 > 2)" type transmission providing nine or ten selectable forward speeds, depending upon the desirability and practicality of splitting the low gear ratio.

[0037] Splitter shifting of transmission 16 is accomplished responsive to initiation by a vehicle operator-actuated splitter button 52 or the like, usually a button located at the shift lever knob, while operation of the range clutch shifting assembly is an automatic response to movement of the gear shift lever between the central and rightwardmost legs of the shift pattern, as illustrated in Fig. 2. Alternatively, splitter shifting may be automated (see U.S. Pat. No. 5,435,212). Range shift devices of this general type are known in the prior art and may be seen by reference to aforementioned U.S. Pats. No. 3,429,202; 4,455,883; 4,561,325 and 4,663,725.

[0038] To protect the range synchronizers, a properly executed range shift should occur in the sequence of (i) disengaging the main section by shifting to main section neutral, (ii) then initiating and completing the range section shift, and (iii) then, after the range section shift is completed, engaging the main section in the appropriate ratio.

[0039] As is known in the prior art, range clutch damage, also called "range synchronizer burnout," is most likely to occur in three situations: (i) if the main section is engaged prior to completion of a range upshift, (ii) if the main section is engaged prior to completion of a range downshift, or (iii) if a range downshift is attempted at too high a vehicle speed. As will be discussed below, the range shift control of the present invention is effective to minimize or eliminate damage under such occurrences and to allow rapid and dependable completion of permissible range shifts.

[0040] Although the present invention is illustrated in the embodiment of a compound transmission not having an intermediate wall, the present invention is equally applicable to transmissions of the type illustrated in aforementioned U.S. Pats. No. 4,754,665; 5,193,410 and 5,368,145.

[0041] According to the present invention, and as more fully described in aforementioned U.S. Pat. No. 5,651,292, the interengaging clutch teeth provided on splitter clutch 88 and on splitter gear 124 and splitter/range gear 126 are of a relatively large backlash (i.e., about .020-.060 inches for a 3.6-inch pitch diameter clutch), which will assure that almost any attempted splitter shift under full force will be completed.

[0042] The clutch 88 is moved by a shift fork 98 attached to the piston rod 140 of the piston actuator assembly 142 (see Fig. 4). Actuator assembly 142 may be a conventional three-position actuator (see U.S. Pat. No. 5,054,591, the disclosure of which is incorporated

herein by reference) or an actuator of the type illustrated in U.S. Pats. No. 5,682,790 or 5,661,998 (the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference), wherein pulse width modulation of a selectively pressurized and exhausted chamber 144 may be used to achieve the three splitter positions (L, N, H) of the shift fork.

[0043] Preferably, the splitter clutch actuator 142 will be capable of applying a variable force, such as by pulse width modulation, of supply pressure. A force lesser than full force may be utilized when disengaging and/or when synchronous conditions cannot be verified.

[0044] The controller 48 is provided with logic rules under which, if the main section is engaged, a shift from splitter neutral into a selected target splitter ratio is initiated such that, under normal conditions, including proper operator fuel control, the synchronous error (which is equal to input shaft rotational speed minus the product of output shaft rotational speed and transmission target gear ratio) is expected to be equal to or less than a value selected to give smooth, high-quality shifts ($(IS - (OS \cdot GR)) = ERROR \leq REF$). The timing is done in regard to sensed/expected shaft speeds, shaft acceleration/deceleration and actuator reaction times.

[0045] In certain situations, the logic rules will recognize operating conditions wherein the preferred synchronous window (i.e., $IS = (OS \cdot GR) \pm 60 \text{ RPM}$) must be expanded to accomplish a splitter shift, even at the expense of shift quality. These situations, usually associated with upshifts, include if shifting attempted at low engine speeds wherein expected engine speed at shift completion will be undesirably low, if deceleration of the output shaft is relatively high ($dOS/dt < REF$), if the deceleration of the engine is relatively low ($dES/dt > REF$) and/or if the absolute value of the synchronous error is not approaching the normal value at an acceptable rate.

[0046] The position of the shift lever 31 or of the shifting mechanism 32 controlled thereby may be sensed by a position sensor device. Various positioning sensing assemblies are known in the prior art, with a preferred type illustrated in allowed U.S. Serial No. 08/695,052, assigned to the assignee of this application, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0047] Referring to Figs. 5A and 5B, shifting mechanism 32 is illustrated as a single shift shaft device 160 having a shaft 162 which is rotatable in response to X-X movements of shift lever 31 and axially movable in response to Y-Y movements of shift lever 31. Mechanisms of this type are described in detail in aforementioned U.S. Pat. No. 4,920,815.

[0048] Shift shaft 162 carries the main section shift forks 90 and 92 for selective axial movement therewith and a shift block member 164 for receiving a shift finger or the like. A pair of coils 166 and 168 provide a pair of signals (collectively GR) indicative of the axial and rotational position of shaft 162 and, thus, of shift lever 31 relative to the shift pattern illustrated in Fig. 2. Preferably,

the rate of change of position (dGR/dt) also may be determined and utilized to enhance shifting of the system 10.

[0049] By way of example, referring to Fig. 2, if shift lever position can be sensed, the need for a fixed switch or the like at point AR to sense a required initiation of a shift between low range and high range is eliminated. Further, as physical switches are no longer required, the shift pattern position at which a range shift will be commanded can be varied, such as to points 180, 182 or 184, to enhance system performance under various operating conditions.

[0050] If in first (1st) through fourth (4th), a shift into high range is unlikely and the auto range shift initiation point may be moved to position 184 (away from the expected shift lever path) to prevent inadvertent actuation of a range shift. If in sixth (6th) with a high engine speed, a shift into high range is likely and moving the auto range initiation point to position 180 will allow for a quicker initiation of a range shift.

[0051] According to the present invention, the operator is allowed to control engine fueling unless the current vehicle operating conditions indicate that his/her operation of the throttle pedal will not allow the jaw clutches associated with the current target ratio to engage. If operating conditions, including operator setting of the throttle pedal, indicate that the operator will complete a splitter shift into target ratio, the engine will be fueled in accordance with operator throttle setting. If not, automatic engine fueling may occur. If the splitter section does engage prior to the main section, as is preferred, the operator will remain in complete control of engine fueling to complete the shift by engaging the main section.

[0052] The state of engagement (i.e., engaged or neutral) of the main transmission section 16A is an important control parameter for system 10. By way of example, if main section neutral is sensed, the splitter may be commanded to a full force engagement, regardless of the existence or absence of synchronous conditions. Also, if the main section is engaged while the splitter is in neutral, the system will not cause splitter engagement until substantial synchronous is sensed and may then initiate automatic fuel control if required. Of course, it is important to prevent or minimize false determinations of main section neutral and/or engaged conditions.

[0053] Referring to Fig. 2, a first narrow band 202 and a second wider band 204 of vertical displacements from the bight portion 200 are utilized to determine if the main section is or is not in neutral. If the transmission main section is not confirmed as being in main section neutral, the neutral confirmation band will be the narrower band 202. This will assure that the main section 16A is truly in neutral before declaring a main section neutral condition. If the transmission main section 16A is confirmed as being in neutral, the neutral confirmation band will be the wider band 204. This assures that

mere overshooting of neutral or raising of main section jaw clutches will not be incorrectly interpreted as a main section engaged condition.

[0054] Sensing the shift lever at point 206 will always be interpreted as main section neutral, and sensing the shift lever at point 208 will always be interpreted as main section engaged. However, if the shift lever is sensed at point 210, this will not cause a previous determination of a neutral or engaged condition to change.

[0055] Vehicle operating conditions other than or in addition to currently engaged or neutral condition of the main section 16A may be used to vary the width of the neutral sensing bands.

[0056] The range shift control of the present invention is illustrated in flow chart format in Figs. 6A and 6B. During a range upshift (i.e., shift from the low range to the high range across the autorange shift initiation point AR, as seen in Fig. 2), if engagement of the main section is sensed (i.e., clutch 84 engages gear 108 or gear 76) prior to completion of engagement of the high-range ratio (i.e., clutch 130 engages gear 126), the engine is fueled to cause a substantially synchronous engine speed and the range shift into high continues. This assures rapid engagement of the synchronized clutch with minimal wear of the friction cone surfaces.

[0057] During a range downshift, if the vehicle speed is too high to complete the shift, the range downshift is not permissible and range is held in range-high. By way of example, if a maximum engine speed (ES_{MAX}) is less than output shaft speed times the gear ratio in the highest low-range ratio (i.e., if $ES_{MAX} < OS \cdot GR_6$), then vehicle speed is too high for a range downshift. If a range downshift is permissible (i.e., $ES_{MAX} \geq OS \cdot GR_6$), then the system determines if (i) the main section engages prior to the range section and (ii) the range engagement will occur at significantly out-of-synchronous condition ($ES = (OS \cdot GR_7) \pm X$), if both these conditions exist, then the controller will take control of fueling and cause engine speed to be a substantially synchronous value (i.e., $ES = (OS \cdot GR_7) \pm Y$) for engaging the target ratio at current vehicle speed.

[0058] Accordingly, it may be seen that a new and improved range shift control for a computer-assisted, lever-shifted transmission system is provided, which provides protection against undue wear and/or damage to the range synchronized clutch assembly.

[0059] Although the present invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the description of the preferred embodiment is by way of example only and that numerous changes to form and detail are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as herein-after claimed.

Claims

1. A method for controlling range shifting in a vehicular transmission system comprising a fuel-controlled

engine, a compound transmission driven by said engine and having a main transmission section connected in series with a range section, said range section defining a high-range ratio and a low-range ratio, a range section shift actuator for shifting said range section, a manually operated shift selector for shifting said main transmission section, a range shift selector for selecting a shift in said range section, a fuel controller for controlling fueling of said engine, and a system controller for receiving input signals, including signals indicative of one or more of (i) vehicle speed, (ii) engine rotational speed, (iii) engaged condition of said main transmission section, (iv) engaged condition of said range section, and (v) operation of said range shift selector, and for processing said input signals in accordance with predetermined logic rules to determine vehicle operating conditions and to issue command output signals to system actuators including one or more of (i) said range shift actuator and (ii) said fuel controller, said method comprising:

determining (i) if a range shift has been initiated and (ii) the engaged conditions of said main transmission section and said range section; and

if said main section is engaged while said range section is not engaged, (i) determining a target gear ratio corresponding to the engaged main section gear ratio and (ii) causing said fuel controller to fuel said engine to cause engine rotational speed to be substantially equal to engine synchronous speed for engaging said target ratio ($ES = (OS \cdot GR_7) \pm Y$) while continuing to complete shifting of said range section.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmission defines a plurality of low-range ratios (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) including a ratio (6) having the lowest numerical ratio (GR_6) of transmission input speed to transmission output speed, said method further comprising:

determining a maximum acceptable engine speed (ES_{MAX}) during range downshifts; upon sensing a signal from said range shift selector indicating selection of a range downshift, determining expected engine speed in said low-range ratio having the lowest numerical ratio of transmission input speed to transmission output speed at current vehicle speed ($OS \cdot GR_6$);

comparing said expected engine speed to said maximum acceptable engine speed ($ES_{MAX} > OS \cdot GR_6$?); and

if said expected engine speed exceeds said maximum acceptable engine speed, causing said range section to remain engaged in said

high-range ratio.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said shift selector is a manually operated shift lever shifting said main section in accordance with an established shift pattern. 5
4. The method of claim 2 wherein said shift selector is a manually operated shift lever shifting said main section in accordance with an established shift pattern. 10
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said range selector is a manually operated switch. 15
6. The method of claim 3 wherein said range selector switch is operated as a function of the position of said shift lever in said shift pattern. 20
7. The method of claim 4 wherein said range selector switch is operated as a function of the position of said shift lever in said shift pattern. 25
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said range section ratios are engaged and disengaged by a double-acting synchronized positive clutch. 30
9. The method of claim 2 wherein said range section ratios are engaged and disengaged by a double-acting synchronized positive clutch. 35
10. The method of claim 6 wherein said range section ratios are engaged and disengaged by a double-acting synchronized positive clutch. 40
11. A control system for controlling range shifting in a vehicular transmission system comprising a fuel-controlled engine, a compound transmission driven by said engine and having a main transmission section connected in series with a range section, said range section defining a high-range ratio and a low-range ratio, a range section shift actuator for shifting said range section, a manually operated shift selector for shifting said main transmission section, a range shift selector for selecting a shift in said range section, a fuel controller for controlling fueling of said engine, and a system controller for receiving input signals, including signals indicative of one or more of (i) vehicle speed, (ii) engine rotational speed, (iii) engaged condition of said main transmission section, (iv) engaged condition of said range section, and (v) operation of said range shift selector, and for processing said input signals in accordance with predetermined logic rules to determine vehicle operating conditions and to issue command output signals to system actuators including one or more of (i) said range shift actuator and (ii) said fuel controller, said system comprising: 45

means for determining (i) if a range shift has been initiated and (ii) the engaged conditions of said main transmission section and said range section; and

means effective, if said main section is engaged while said range section is not engaged, for (i) determining a target gear ratio corresponding to the engaged main section gear ratio and for (ii) causing said fuel controller to fuel said engine to cause engine rotational speed to be substantially equal to engine synchronous speed for engaging said target ratio ($ES = (OS \cdot GR_r) \pm Y$) while continuing to complete shifting of said range section.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said transmission defines a plurality of low-range ratios (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) including a ratio (6) having the lowest numerical ratio (GR_6) of transmission input speed to transmission output speed, said system further comprising:

means for determining a maximum acceptable engine speed (ES_{MAX}) during range downshifts;

means effective, upon sensing a signal from said range shift selector indicating selection of a range downshift, for determining expected engine speed in said low-range ratio having the lowest numerical ratio of transmission input speed to transmission output speed at current vehicle speed ($OS \cdot GR_6$);

means for comparing said expected engine speed to said maximum acceptable engine speed ($ES_{MAX} > OS \cdot GR_6$); and

means effective, if said expected engine speed exceeds said maximum acceptable engine speed, for causing said range section to remain engaged in said high-range ratio.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said shift selector is a manually operated shift lever shifting said main section in accordance with an established shift pattern. 50
14. The system of claim 12 wherein said shift selector is a manually operated shift lever shifting said main section in accordance with an established shift pattern. 55
15. The system of claim 11 wherein said range selector is a manually operated switch.
16. The system of claim 13 wherein said range selector switch is operated as a function of the position of said shift lever in said shift pattern.
17. The system of claim 14 wherein said range selector switch is operated as a function of the position of

said shift lever in said shift pattern.

18. The system of claim 11 wherein said range section includes a double-acting synchronized positive clutch for engaging and disengaging said range section ratios. 5
19. The system of claim 12 wherein said range section includes a double-acting synchronized positive clutch for engaging and disengaging said range section ratios. 10
20. The system of claim 16 wherein said range section includes a double-acting synchronized positive clutch for engaging and disengaging said range section ratios. 15
21. A computer program product for controlling range shifting in a vehicular transmission system comprising a fuel-controlled engine, a compound transmission driven by said engine and having a main transmission section connected in series with a range section, said range section defining a high-range ratio and a low-range ratio, a range section shift actuator for shifting said range section, a manually operated shift selector for shifting said main transmission section, a range shift selector for selecting a shift in said range section, a fuel controller for controlling fueling of said engine, and a computer-based system controller for receiving input signals, including signals indicative of one or more of (i) vehicle speed, (ii) engine rotational speed, (iii) engaged condition of said main transmission section, (iv) engaged condition of said range section, and (v) operation of said range shift selector, and for processing said input signals in accordance with predetermined logic rules to determine vehicle operating conditions and to issue command output signals to system actuators including one or more of (i) said range shift actuator and (ii) said fuel controller, said program having codes for: 20
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determining if a range shift has been initiated and the engaged conditions of said main transmission section and said range section; and if said main section is engaged while said range section is not engaged, determining a target gear ratio corresponding to the engaged main section gear ratio and causing said fuel controller to fuel said engine to cause engine rotational speed to be substantially equal to engine synchronous speed for engaging said target ratio ($ES = (OS \cdot GR_T) \pm Y$) while continuing to complete shifting of said range section. 45
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22. The program of claim 21 wherein said transmission defines a plurality of low-range ratios (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) including a ratio (6) having the lowest numerical

ratio (GR_6) of transmission input speed to transmission output speed, said program further having codes for:

determining a maximum acceptable engine speed (ES_{MAX}) during range downshifts; upon sensing a signal from said range shift selector indicating selection of a range downshift, determining expected engine speed in said low-range ratio having the lowest numerical ratio of transmission input speed to transmission output speed at current vehicle speed ($OS \cdot GR_6$); comparing said expected engine speed to said maximum acceptable engine speed ($ES_{MAX} > OS \cdot GR_6?$); and if said expected engine speed exceeds said maximum acceptable engine speed, causing said range section to remain engaged in said high-range ratio.

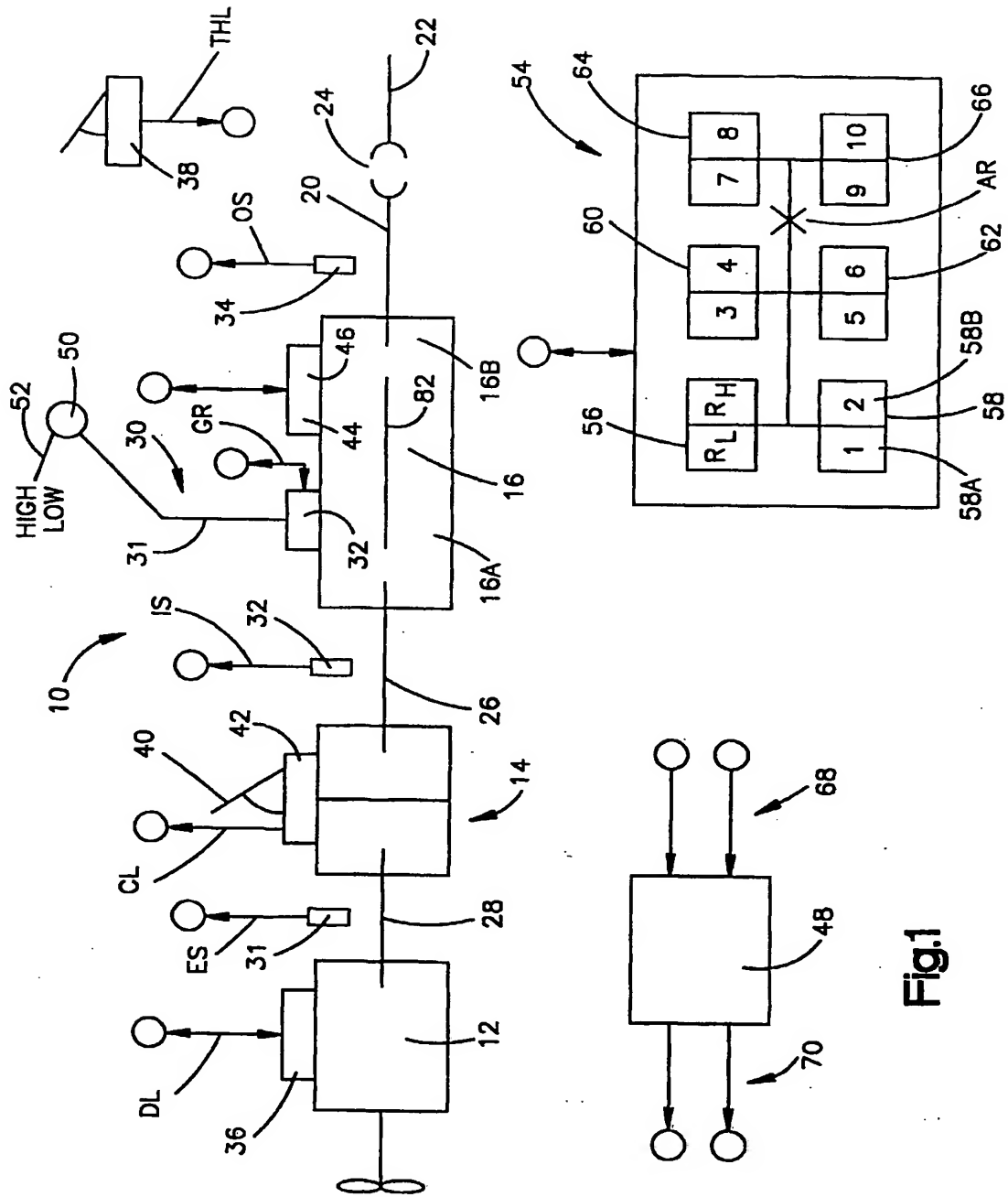
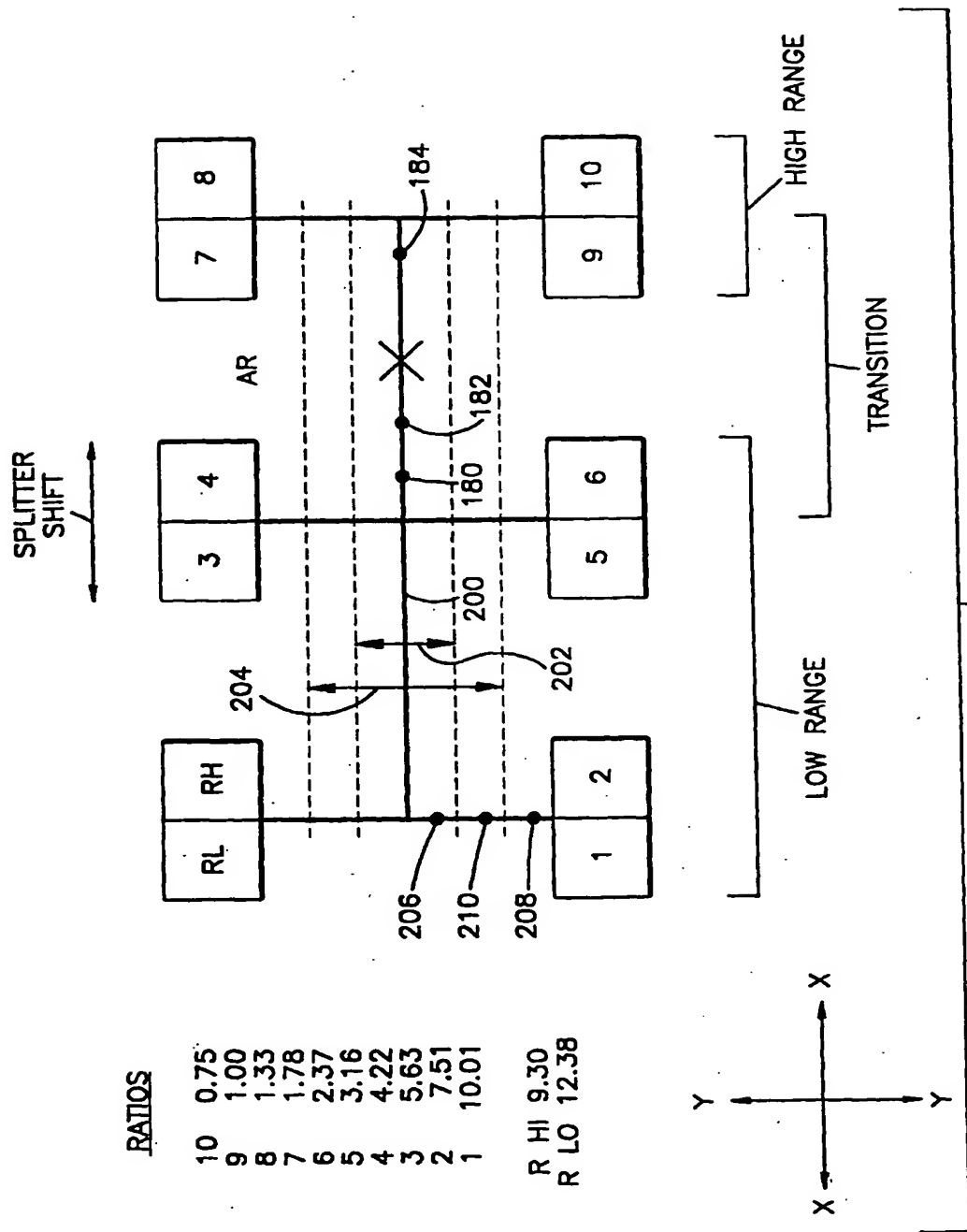
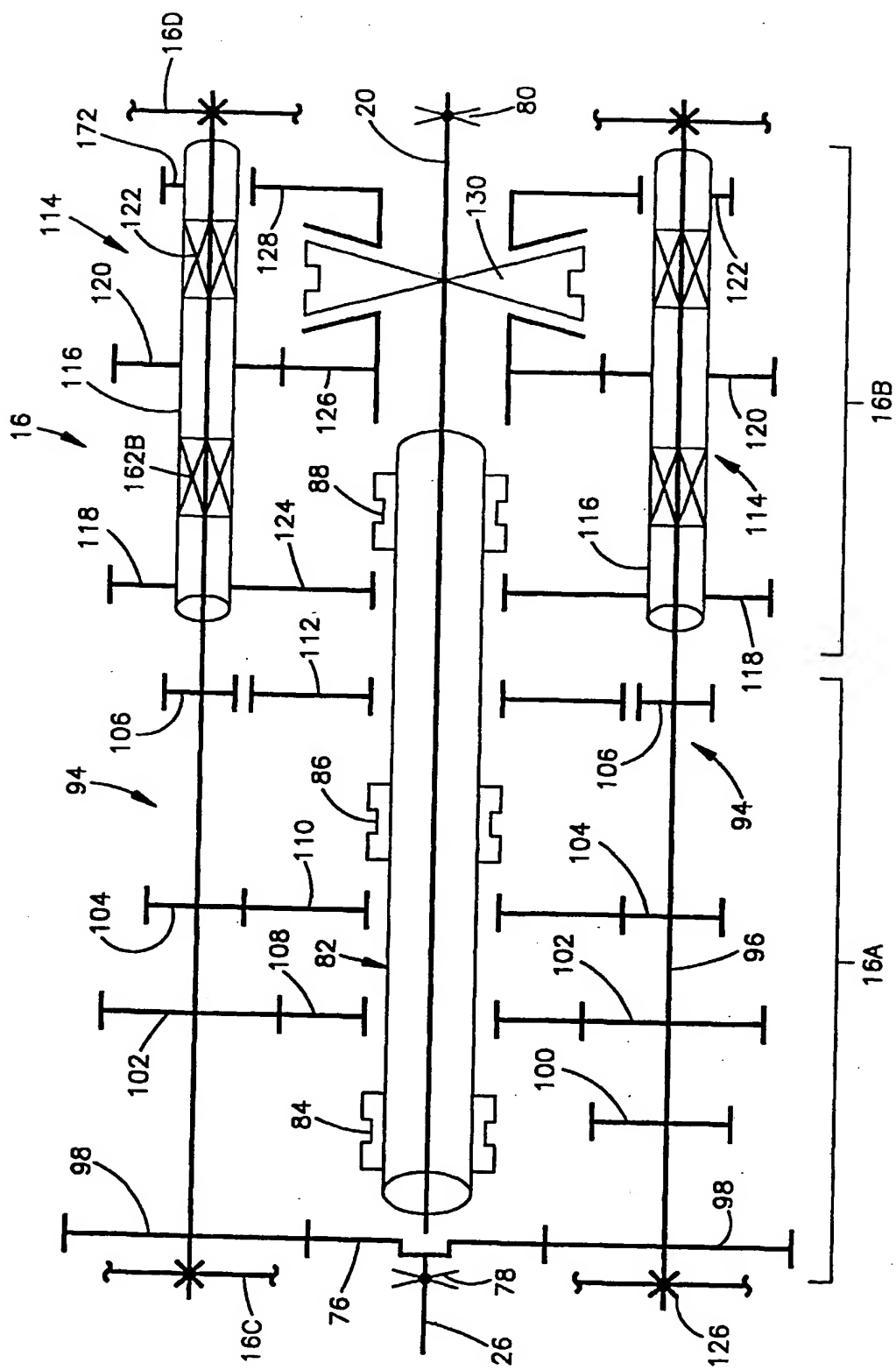


Fig.1





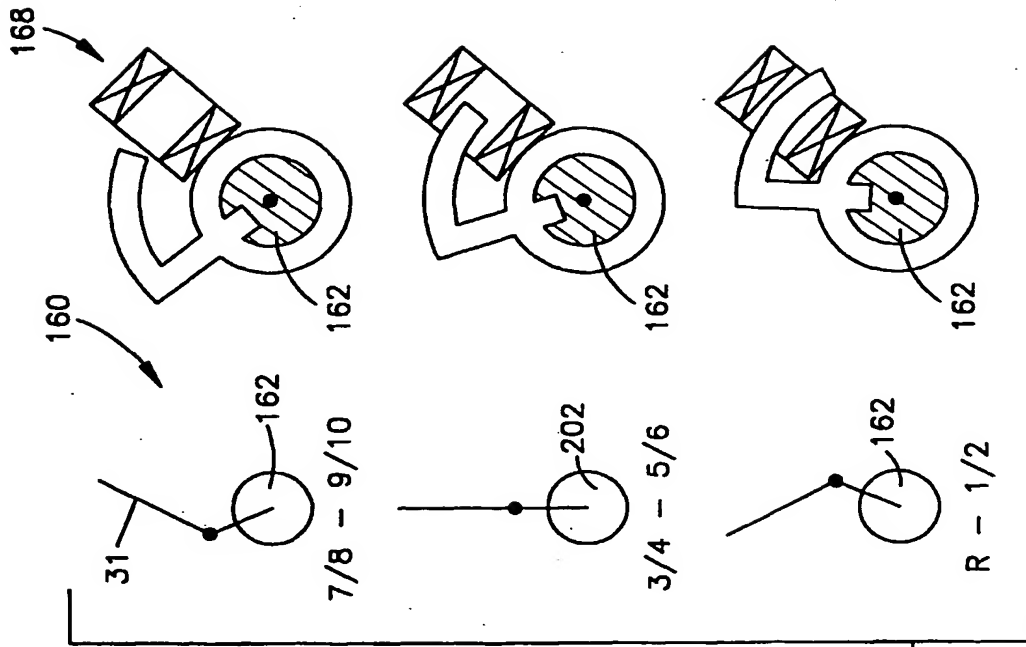


Fig. 5B

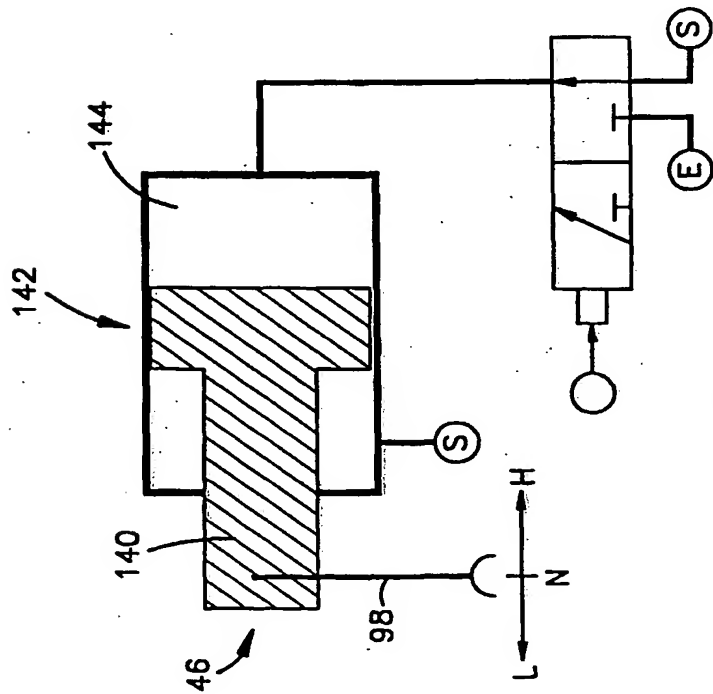


Fig. 4

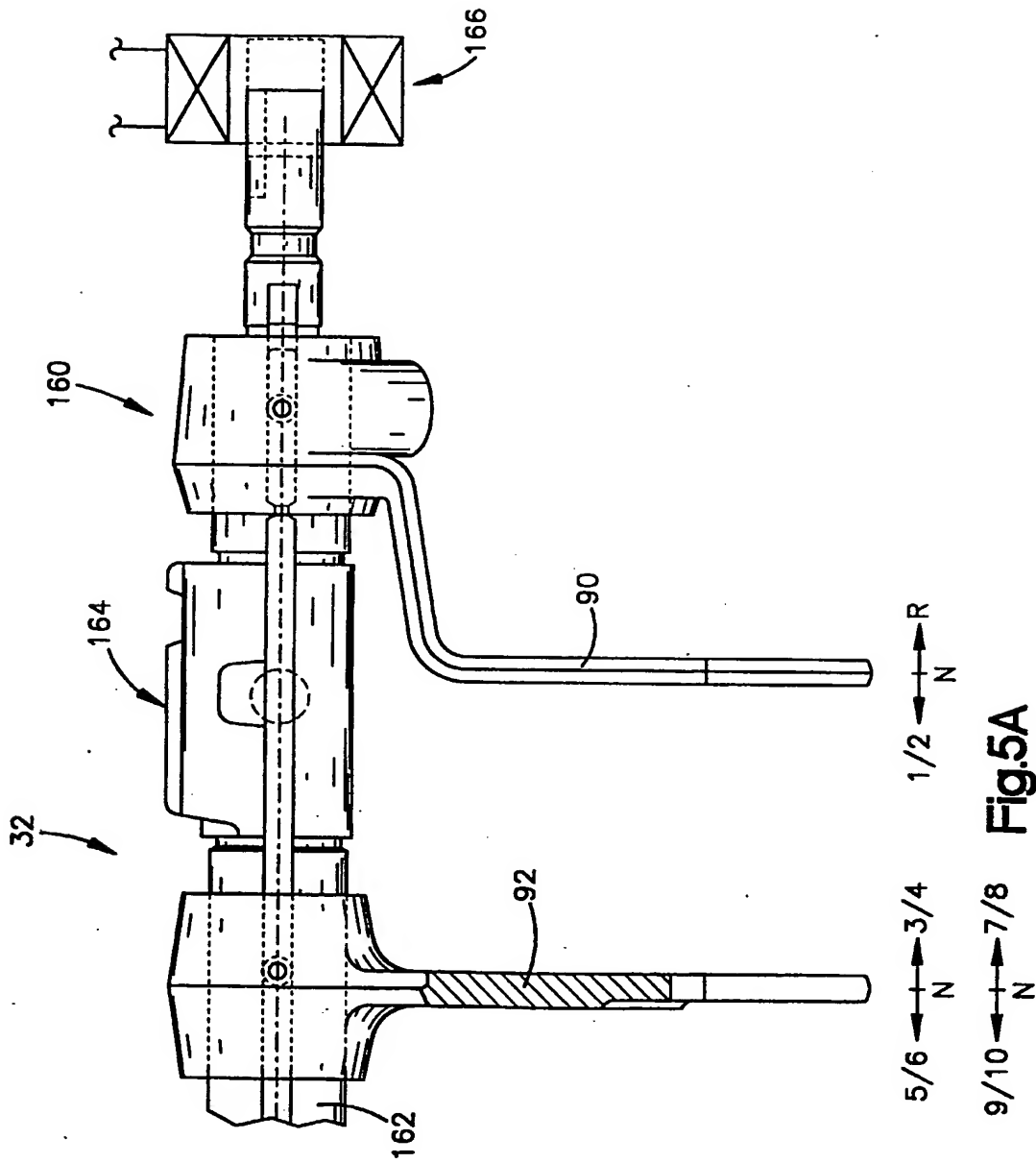
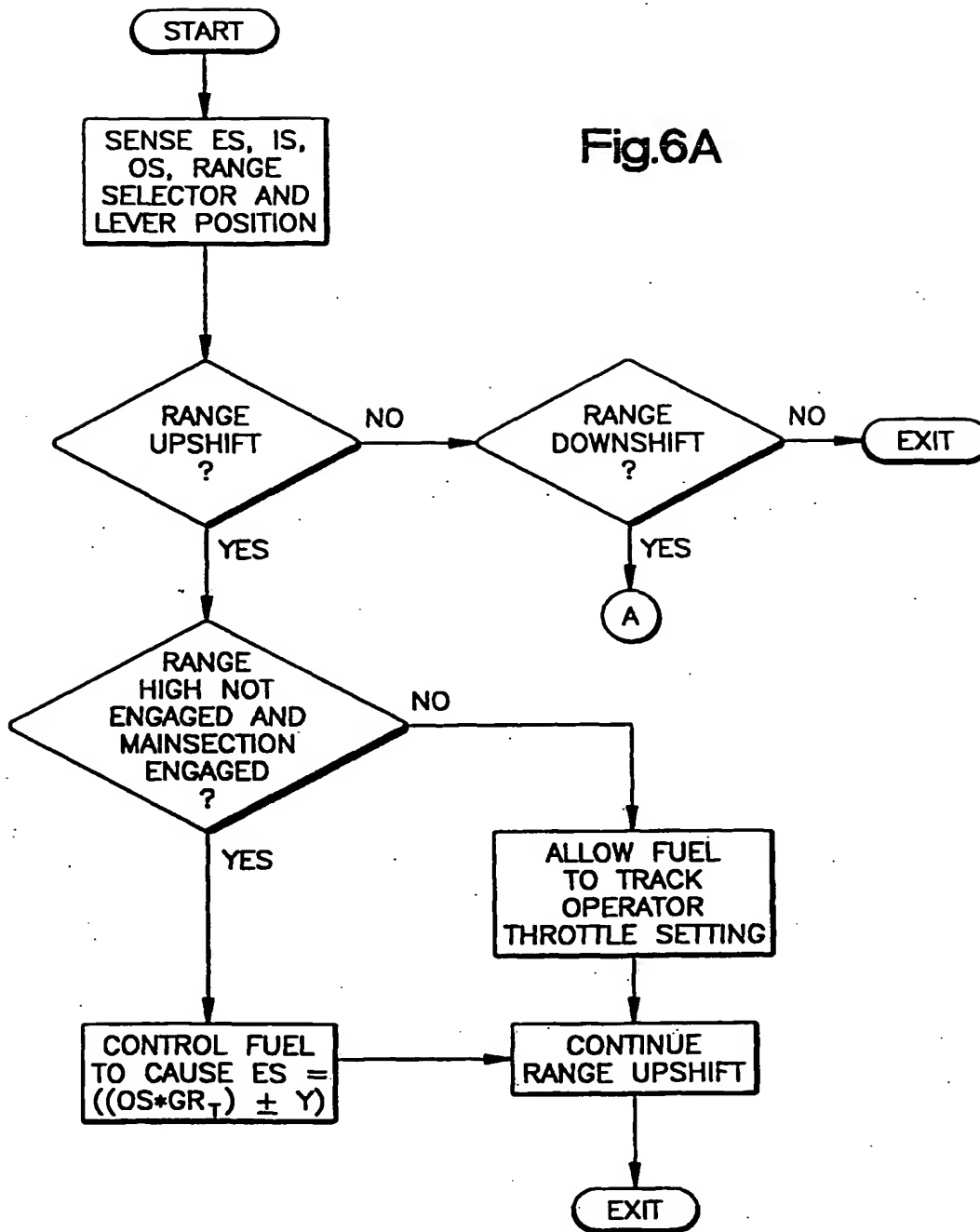


Fig. 5A

Fig.6A



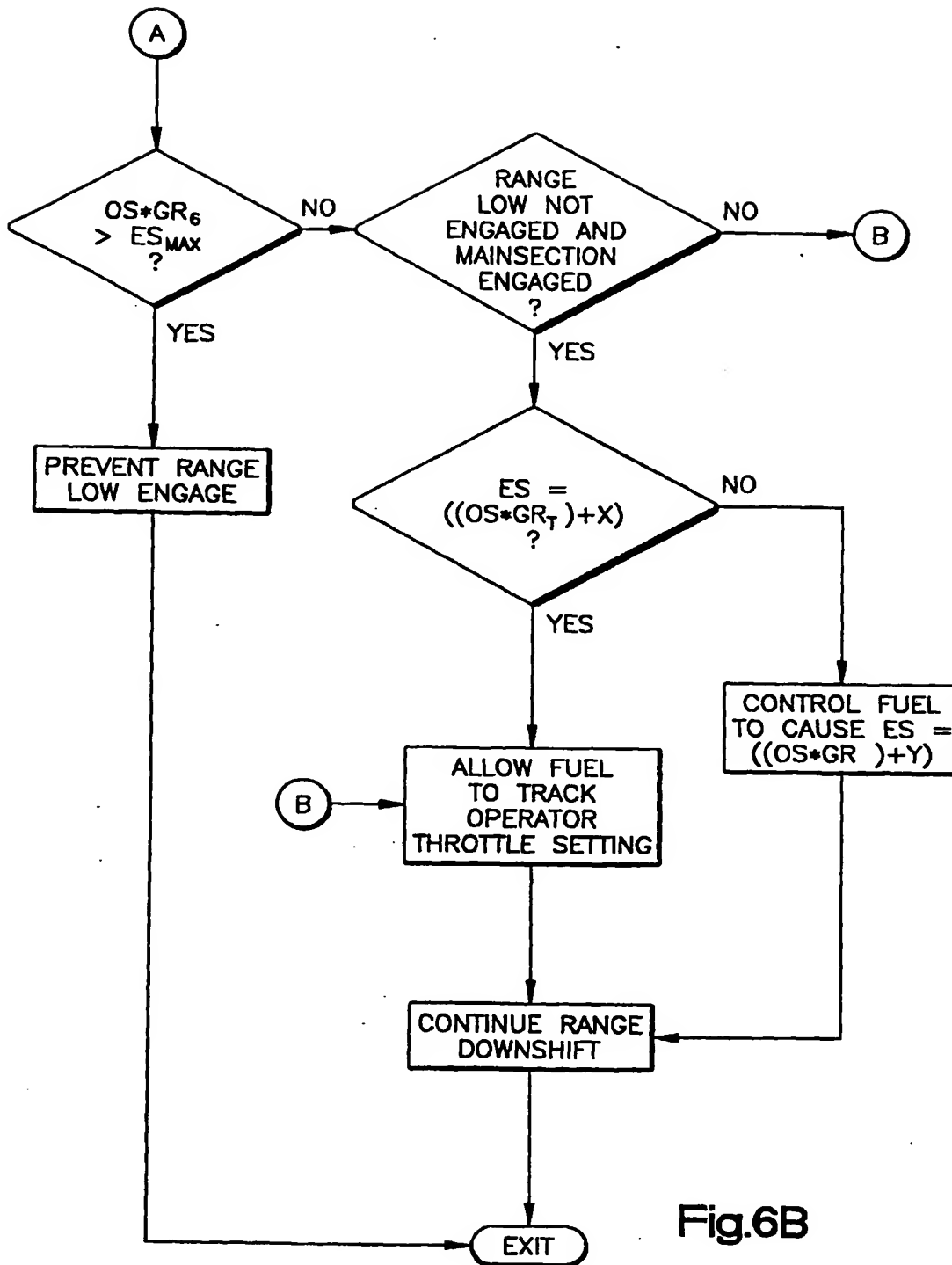


Fig.6B

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